

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A high level disinfecting composition comprising a buffered aqueous solution containing a conjugated aliphatic dialdehyde having less than 8 carbons and at least one aldehyde group adjacent to a double bond in an amount effective to achieve high level disinfection as determined by the ability of said composition to kill all bacterial cells and spores in contact with said composition when exposed to said composition for a time and at a temperature sufficient to exert its biocidal effect, the aqueous solution being buffered to a pH of less than 7.
2. (currently amended) A high level disinfecting composition comprising a buffered aqueous solution containing an amount of conjugated aliphatic dialdehyde having less than 8 carbons and at least one aldehyde group adjacent to a double bond effective to achieve high level disinfection as determined by the ability of said composition to kill all microorganisms in contact with said composition within 30 minutes at 20⁰C, the aqueous solution being buffered to a pH of less than 7.
3. (previously presented) A high level disinfecting composition of claim 2 wherein the bacterial cells are *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG.

4. (cancelled)
5. (previously presented) A high level disinfecting composition of claim 2 in which the conjugated aliphatic dialdehyde is 2-butenedial.
6. (currently amended) A high level disinfecting composition of claim 2 which further comprises surfactants, glycols, corrosion inhibitors, antioxidants, ~~sequesterent~~ sequestrants, odor ~~surpressants~~ suppressants, ~~dye and fragrance~~ dyes or fragrances.
7. not elected.
8. not elected
9. not elected
10. (currently amended) A liquid sterilizing composition comprising a buffered aqueous solution which contains an amount of conjugated aliphatic dialdehyde having less than 8 carbons and at least one aldehyde group adjacent to a double bond in an amount effective to sterilize as determined by the ability of said composition to kill all micro-organic spores in contact with said composition within 32 hours at 20⁰C, the aqueous solution being buffered to a pH of less than 7.
11. (previously presented) A sterilizing composition of claim 10 wherein the micro-organic spores are that of *Bacillus subtilis* and *Clostridium sporogenes*.

12. (cancelled)

13. (previously presented) A sterilizing composition of claim 10 in which the conjugated aliphatic dialdehyde is 2-butenedial.

14. (currently amended) A sterilizing composition of claim 10 which further comprises surfactants, corrosion inhibitors, antioxidants, ~~sequesterent~~ sequestrants, odor ~~surpressants~~ suppressants, ~~dye and fragrance~~ dyes or fragrances.

15. not elected

16. not elected

17. not elected